

What is claimed is:

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1 1. A method comprising:
2 implementing an integrated circuit device within an electronic system, the integrated
3 circuit device including an override disable pin; and
4 preventing modification of a representation of a primary pass-phrase when the
5 override disable pin is asserted, the primary pass-phrase permitting access to stored
6 information within the electronic system.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the integrated circuit device comprises a
2 package to form a packaged integrated circuit device.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein preventing of the modification of the
2 primary pass-phrase includes
3 setting a control storage element within the integrated circuit device upon
4 assertion of the override disable pin; and
5 disabling modification of the primary pass-phrase when the control storage
6 element is set.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the control storage element is set after
2 placing the electronic system in an administration mode upon correctly inputting the
3 primary pass-phrase into the electronic system.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the integrated circuit device further
2 includes an override pin which, when asserted, allows a stored representation of the
3 primary pass-phrase to be modified.

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1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the control storage element is set after
2 placing the electronic system in an administration mode upon correctly inputting the
3 primary pass-phase into the electronic system.

1 13. The method of claim 9, wherein the setting of the control storage element
2 includes setting a bit of at least one control register configured for permanent state
3 retention over a plurality of power cycles.

1 14. A method comprising:
2 enabling placement of an electronic system into an administrator mode upon assertion of
3 an override disable pin of an integrated circuit device; and
4 disabling placement of the electronic system into the administrator mode despite assertion
5 of the override pin of the integrated circuit device when an override disable pin of the integrated
6 circuit device is asserted prior to assertion of the override pin.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the integrated circuit device comprises a
2 package to form a packaged integrated circuit device.

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the act of disabling access comprises
2 setting a control storage element within the integrated circuit device in response to
3 the assertion of the override disable pin; and
4 determining whether the control storage element is set.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the setting of the control storage element
2 includes setting a bit of at least one control register configured for permanent state
3 retention over a plurality of power cycles.

1 23. The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the integrated circuit device
2 further includes a microcode to determine whether the override disable pin has been
3 asserted prior to assertion of the override pin.

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